

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for identifying duplicate
2 records among multiple systems, comprising the steps of:

3 loading first records having an index number into a
4 database from a plurality of accounts payable systems
5 during a first predetermined time period;

6 for each record having said index number, searching
7 said database for another record, loaded during a
8 second earlier time period, having the same index
9 number and replacing said another record, if found,
10 with said first record;

11 comparing each first record for which no matching index
12 number record was found with all other first records
13 for which no matching index number record was found;

14 comparing each of said first records for which no
15 matching index number record was found with all the
16 other records including the replaced records in said

17 database;

18 generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports
19 listing records which compared; and

20 eliminating from said database said first records
21 deemed to have compared.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, said records being
2 invoice records.

3-5 [Canceled]

1 6. [Currently amended] ~~The method of claim 3, further~~
2 ~~comprising the step~~ A method for providing a report that can
3 be used to evaluate two or more invoiced documents for
4 further investigation of possible duplicate invoicing,
5 comprising the steps of:

6 maintaining a compact database by entering invoice data
7 to said compact database from a plurality of accounts
8 payable systems for payment at a later date and
9 removing canceled invoice documents and invoice
10 documents older than a predetermined period;

11 responsive to submission of an invoice with a null
12 invoice indicia field [[of]] entering date indicia in
13 said null invoice indicia field;

14 extracting data from said compact database by matching
15 on suppliers invoice indicia, name, date and amount;

16 checking said compact database for duplicate invoices
17 before said later date; and

18 producing said report from said data.

1 7. [Currently amended] Method for capturing packets of
2 possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis,
3 comprising the steps of:

4 preparing a set of invoices including all invoices from
5 all systems;

6 removing selected invoices from said set of invoices
7 based upon first expert criteria to form an
8 investigative packet;

maintaining as a first subset of said investigative packet a collection of current invoices that have not yet been paid;

maintaining as a second subset of said investigative packet a collection of history invoices that have been paid;

generating based on second expert criteria from said current invoices and said history invoices a packet plurality of intermediate packets of invoices exhibiting a same behavior, each said intermediate packet including at least one invoice from said collection of current invoices;

dropping packets from said plurality of intermediate packets based on third expert criteria;

flagging invoices in remaining intermediate packets based on fourth expert criteria;

dropping from said remaining intermediate packets to form a final set of packets invoices which have not been flagged; and

28 generating from ~~a plurality of~~ said final set of
29 packets a first report of invoices having same invoice
30 numbers and vendor numbers, a second report of invoices
31 having similar vendor names and same invoice amounts; a
32 third report of invoices having similar invoice dates
33 and invoice amounts differing only ~~on-flagged~~ on
34 flagged conditions; a fourth report of invoices having
35 same invoice amounts and invoice numbers but not same
36 date and vendor name; a fifth report of invoices having
37 same invoice numbers and vendor names but not same
38 vendor number and invoice amount; and a sixth report of
39 invoices having same invoice numbers, vendor name and
40 invoice amounts, irrespective of invoice date.

41 8. [Original] The method of claim 7, each invoice
42 comprising a record including vendor identifier indicia,
43 vendor record indicia, date indicia, and amount indicia.

1 9. [Original] The method of claim 8, each said record
2 including a vendor record indicia field, a data indicia
3 field, and an amount indicia field.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 9, further comprising

2 the steps of:

3 flagging said invoices in said packet against each
4 other with respect to expert criteria;

5 dropping from said packet unflagged invoices; and

6 discarding remaining packets having no current
7 invoices.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of flagging record pairs having transposed digits
3 in said vendor record indicia fields.

1 12. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the step responsive to receiving an invoice with null vendor
3 record indicia field of entering date indicia as date-like
4 indicia to said vendor record indicia field.

1 13. [Original] The method of claim 12, further comprising
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor
3 identifier indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor
4 indicia field.

1 14. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor
3 record indicia.

1 15. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs having, for matching
3 vendor identification indicia, matching vendor record
4 indicia except for a prefix or suffix character.

1 16. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor
3 identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of
4 different lengths.

1 17. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor
3 record indicia while ignoring embedded blanks.

1 18. [Original] The method of claim 12, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 flagging invoice pairs having transposed digits in said
4 vendor record indicia fields;

5 flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor identifier
6 indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor indicia
7 field;

8 flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor record
9 indicia;

10 flagging invoice pairs having, for matching vendor
11 identification indicia, matching vendor record indicia
12 except for a prefix or suffix character;

13 flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor
14 identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of
15 different lengths; and

16 flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor record
17 indicia while ignoring embedded blanks.

1 19. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of forcing all said invoices to be current.

1 20. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of capturing packets having same vendor and invoice
3 numbers.

1 21. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of capturing packets having similar vendor names
3 and same invoice amount.

1 22. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of capturing packets having similar invoice dates
3 and amounts, differing only on flagged conditions.

1 23. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of capturing packets having same invoice amount and
3 numbers but not same date and vendor name.

1 24. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of capturing packets having same invoice number and
3 vendor name but not same vendor number and invoice amount..;

1 25. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of capturing packets having the same vendor number
3 and same invoice number and amount, irrespective of invoice
4 date.

1 26. [Original] A program storage device readable by a
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

executable by a machine to perform method steps for
identifying duplicate records among multiple systems, said
method steps comprising:

loading first records having an index number into a
database during a first predetermined time period;

for each record having said index number, searching
said database for another record, loaded during a
second earlier time period, having the same index
number and replacing said another record, if found,
with said first record;

comparing each first record for which no matching index
number record was found with all other first records
for which no matching index number invoice was found;

comparing each of said first invoices for which no
matching index number record was found with all the
other records including the replaced records in said
database;

generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports
listing records which compared; and

22 eliminating from said database said first records
23 deemed to have compared.

1 27. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 providing a report that can be used to evaluate two or more
5 invoiced documents for further investigation of possible
6 duplicate invoicing, said method steps comprising:

7 maintaining a compact database by removing canceled
8 invoice documents and invoice documents older than a
9 predetermined period;

10 responsive to submission of an invoice with a null
11 invoice indicia field entering date indicia in said
12 null invoice indicia field;

13 extracting data from said compact database by matching
14 on suppliers invoice indicia, name, date and amount;
15 and

16 producing said report from said data.

1 28. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 capturing packets of possible duplicate invoices for
5 duplicate invoice analysis, said method steps comprising:

6 preparing a set of invoices including all invoices from
7 all systems;

8 removing selected invoices from said set of invoices
9 based upon first expert criteria to form an
10 investigative packet;

11 maintaining as a first subset of said investigative
12 packet a collection of current invoices that have not
13 yet been paid;

14 maintaining as a second subset of said investigative
15 packet a collection of history invoices that have been
16 paid; [[and]]

17 generating based on second expert criteria from said
18 current invoices and said history invoices a packet
19 plurality of intermediate packets of invoices

20 exhibiting a same behavior, each said intermediate
21 packet including at least one invoice from said
22 collection of current invoices;

23 dropping packets from said plurality of intermediate
24 packets based on third expert criteria;

25 flagging invoices in remaining intermediate packets
26 based on fourth expert criteria; and

27 dropping from said remaining intermediate packets to
28 form a final set of packets invoices which have not
29 been flagged.

1 29. [Currently amended] A system for capturing packets of
2 possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis,
3 comprising:

4 a set of invoices including all invoices from all
5 systems;

6 an investigative packet formed by removing selected
7 invoices from said set of invoices based upon first

8 expert criteria;

9 a first subset of said investigative packet including a
10 current file of invoices that have not yet been paid;

11 a second subset of said investigative packet including
12 a history file of invoices that have been paid; and

13 a ~~packet~~ plurality of intermediate packets of invoices
14 generated based on second expert criteria from said
15 first and second subsets ~~said current file and said~~
16 ~~history files~~ for storing invoices exhibiting a same
17 behavior, said packet including at least one invoice
18 from said of current file; ~~and~~

19 a plurality of reports generated from a plurality of
20 said packets including a first report of invoices
21 having same invoice numbers and vendor numbers, a
22 second report of invoices having similar vendor names
23 and same invoice amounts; a third report of invoices
24 having similar invoice dates and invoice amounts
25 differing only ~~on flagged~~ on flagged conditions; a
26 fourth report of invoices having same invoice amounts
27 and invoice numbers but not same date and vendor name;

28 a fifth report of invoices having same invoice numbers
29 and vendor names but not same vendor number and invoice
30 amount; and a sixth report of invoices having same
31 invoice numbers, vendor name and invoice amounts,
32 irrespective of invoice date.

33 30. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet
34 containing invoices having same vendor and invoice numbers.

1 31. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet
2 containing invoices having similar vendor names and same
3 invoice amount.

1 32. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet
2 containing invoices having similar invoice dates and
3 amounts, differing only on flagged conditions.

1 33. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet
2 containing invoices having same invoice amount and numbers
3 but not same date and vendor name.

1 34. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet
2 containing invoices having same invoice number and vendor
3 name but not same vendor number and invoice amount.

1 35. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet
2 containing invoices having the same vendor number and same
3 invoice number and amount, irrespective of invoice date.

1 36. [Original] A computer program product or computer
2 program element for identifying duplicate records among
3 multiple systems according to method steps comprising:

4 loading first records having an index number into a
5 database during a first predetermined time period;

6 for each record having said index number, searching
7 said database for another record, loaded during a
8 second earlier time period, having the same index
9 number and replacing said another record, if found,
10 with said first record;

11 comparing each first record for which no matching index
12 number record was found with all other first records
13 for which no matching index number invoice was found;

14 comparing each of said first invoices for which no
15 matching index number record was found with all the

16 other records including the replaced records in said
17 database;

18 generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports
19 listing records which compared; and

20 eliminating from said database said first records
21 deemed to have compared.

1. 37. [Currently amended] A computer program product or
2 computer program element for capturing packets of possible
3 duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis according
4 to method steps comprising:

5 preparing a set of invoices including all invoices from
6 all systems;

7 removing selected invoices from said set of invoices
8 based upon first expert criteria to form an
9 investigative packet;

10 maintaining as a first subset of said investigative
11 packet a collection of current invoices that have not
12 yet been paid;

13 maintaining as a second subset of said investigative
14 packet a collection of history invoices that have been
15 paid; [[and]]

16 generating based on second expert criteria from said
17 current invoices and said history invoices a packet
18 plurality of intermediate packets of invoices
19 exhibiting a same behavior, each said intermediate
20 packet including at least one invoice from said
21 collection of current invoices;

22 dropping packets from said plurality of intermediate
23 packets based on third expert criteria;

24 flagging invoices in remaining intermediate packets
25 based on fourth expert criteria; and

26 dropping invoices which have not been flagged from said
27 remaining intermediate packets to form a final set of
28 packets.